Scale) in the Indian Navy (IN) have been made time bound, as per details given below:

(i) Indian Air Force: For promotion to the rank of:

Flt.Lt. — 2 years of reckonable commissioned service

Sqn. I_dr. — 6 years of reckonable commissioned service

Wg. Cdr. — 13 years of reckonable commissioned service

Group Captain — 26 years of reckonable commissioned service (Time Scale)

(ii) Indian Navy: For promotion to the rank of:

Lt. — 2 years as Sub Lt.

Lt. Cdr. — 4 years as Lt.

Cdr. — 11 years as Lt.

Captain (Time Scale) — Cdr. with 26 years reckonable commissioned service.

Time bound promotions in the IAF and the Navy are based on various factors like suitability based on demonstrated performance, clearance of promotion examination, acceptable medical category, clearance from disciplinary/vigilance angle.

Shortage of civilian manpower in Navy

4379. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Navy is facing a shortage of civilian manpower finding it difficult to run workshops for maintenance of warships and equipment;

(b) whether the Navy has sounded the Government that it would not be able to operate the newly commissioned Sea Bird project at Karwar unless it is provided adequate number of civilian staff; and

(c) whether the Navy has assessed the shortage of civilian manpower at 31 percent of its total requirements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Against the sanctioned civilian complement of 48,998 personnel, the borne strength of civilians in Navy is 40,242 and the current shortage is 8756 personnel. The shortages vary in different units and establishments but the overall shortage is approximately 17.87% of the total strength.

Nearly 71% of the civilians are performing operational, technical and logistic support functions in Naval Dockyards and Ship/Aircraft Repair Yards. Shortage of civilian technical manpower is likely to affect the smooth functioning of these Units which are looking after the maintenance of warships and equipments. However, the shortages of civilians are being tackled by filling up the vacancies in accordance with the existing instructions issued by the Government.

The total manpower requirements for various shore based units of Naval Base at Karwar is estimated as 2901 personnel. Out of this, 1541 posts have already been sanctioned and recruitment of personnel is under process. The remaining 1360 posts required for Ship Intermediate Maintenance Authority (SIMA)/Naval Ship Repair Yard (NSRY) which includes 1219 civilian personnel is yet to be sanctioned by the Government.

Agreement with US to rescue submarines in distress

4380. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have agreed to reach an agreement for American assistance for Indian naval submarines which are in distress and for purchase for submarine rescue vehicles;